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VOL. IX.—No. 57.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1890.

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# PLAIN TALK.

VOL. IX.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1890.

No. 57.

## In Camp at Mirror Lake.

HENRY G. CHROMDIN.

"HERE, Hal, steady this pole a minute, please, and Topsy you can straighten out the guy ropes and scatter those tent pins around, and we'll have the tent up in a jiffy and be off for a row on the lake before the rest of the folks get here."

"Ho, that's easy enough," replies Master Harold to the last remark of his Uncle Horace, "pony Mag's pretty lame to-day and Lizzie will be a good while a coming. Don't believe they're any nearer than the hill where we can first see the water, do you?"

"Perhaps not, but suppose you attend to business and stop catching toads for now; time enough to start a menagerie to-morrow. Get those corner guys a little farther out—there, that will do; now the tent will stand true and plumb and won't be likely to be down on us in case a big blow comes up."

tree, and some lighting in it, when Papa and I came over last fall after the tents and things. You know we left them all summer in Mr. Stewart's barn."

"Yes, I know; but probably your crows were just holding a 'caucus' and electing aldermen, and so on, before going south for the winter."

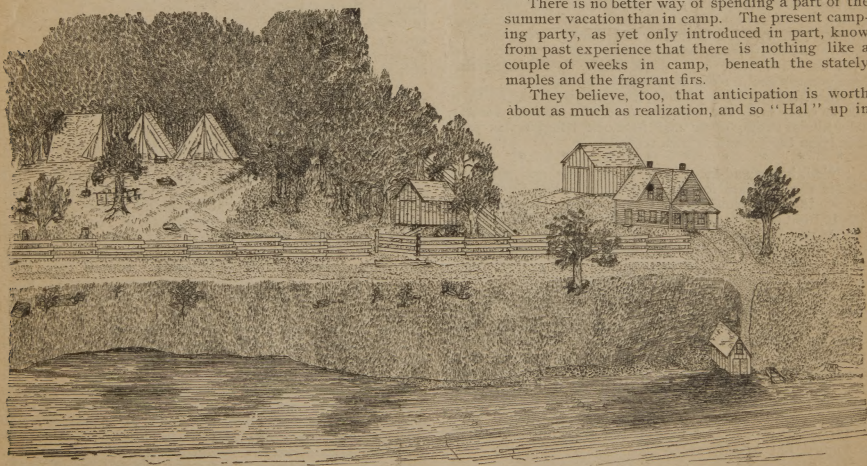
"Oh, now you're trying to fool us, for I don't believe they do such things," says matter-of-fact Alice, adding in the next breath, "Oh, there comes Papa, and Aunt Hattie and Toodles are with him. I'd like to know how they came 'way out there."

"Yes-sir-ee," chimes in the observant Hal, "and if there isn't Lizzie and Mamma and all the rest, just coming in sight around the curve—must have made pony Mag step along lively."

\* \* \* \* \*

There is no better way of spending a part of the summer vacation than in camp. The present camping party, as yet only introduced in part, know from past experience that there is nothing like a couple of weeks in camp, beneath the stately maples and the fragrant firs.

They believe, too, that anticipation is worth about as much as realization, and so "Hal" up in



"Where has Aunt Hattie gone with Toodles?" broke in Topsy—otherwise Miss Alice.

"Oh, she's off on a botanizing expedition," answers Harold, always ready to reply, "or else she's teaching Toodles to climb a tree. Say, Uncle Horace, I know where there's a jolly tree to climb, and I most guess there's a crow's nest in it, too."

"Oh, you do? Well, I 'most guess' you are mistaken, for crows are not apt to select quite so public a spot for a nesting-place."

"Well, anyhow, I saw lots of crows flying above this

his New England village-home, and "Uncle Horace," down in the city by the sea, commence mayhap in bleak December to lay plans for a two weeks' "camp" in sultry August.

What matters it that the latter is forty, and that the former can only count a third as many years! Boys they both are; boon companions they. And "Aunt Hattie" and wee "Toodles," crowing from her perch upon the shoulder of "Uncle Horace," who to her is "Papa," enter into the spirit of the plans.

At length comes the auspicious month, and city and country residents have clasped hands and Master Harold



announces in an aside, "Say, we took the tents over to-day and everybody's going over Monday, and I've saved some fire-crackers from the Fourth to take."

To the "camper" who must hide himself in the primeval forest, far from the busy haunts of men, "Mirror Lake" would have few attractions. It is, however, an exceedingly pretty sheet of water, perhaps five or six miles in circumference, hidden away among the New England hills, and surrounded on all sides by well-tilled farms. A favorite resort of the local fishermen; for years it was known simply as "The Pond," finally rechristened and now rejoicing in the more pretentious name of "Mirror Lake."

The spot selected by our friends for their camping place was on the eastern side, across the somewhat sparsely used highway, and just in the edge of a maple grove. Here they were shut off from the farm-house, and yet were within easy reach of it for milk and other supplies. As one of the party put it, the camp "looked public but was strictly private."

It was an easy matter to make up a party sufficiently large to tax to their uttermost the three tents at Harold's disposal, and arrangements were readily made so that, if necessary, a portion of the company could find accommodations at the farm-house.

Boats were to be had when wanted, and nothing seemed lacking for pleasure or comfort.

The following is "Uncle Horace's" list of the articles necessary to take into camp:

For each person: Tin plate, tin basin, tin tumbler, knife, fork, teaspoon, dessert-spoon; blanket, change of clothing throughout, pair rubbers, gossamer, toilet requisites, fishing tackle.

For general camp use: Fry-pan, tea-kettle, coffee-pot, potato-kettle, dish-pan, milk-dipper, milk-can, knives, spoons; hatchet, nails, rope, torch, several lanterns, spade, soap, dish-cloths, hand and drying towels; Tucker's fat soap, cutaneous ointment (for insect bites), medicine case, needles and thread.

In the line of provisions: Salt-pork, flour, corn-meal, oat-meal, butter (in glass jar), sugar, coffee, tea, salt, pepper, vinegar.

Common-places and prosaic enough it seems in cold type, but a "list" is alike desirable for camper-out or Lord High Executioner.

Experience of past years showed that provisions in addition to those enumerated, such as potatoes, eggs, milk, etc., as well as oil for lanterns and torch, could be purchased from the farm-house, and considerable bother saved thereby.

Two folding-bunks with canvas bottoms, were provided for each tent, and when made up close together three persons could sleep comfortably on each pair.

After the tents were pitched a trench was dug on three sides to carry away the water in case of a sudden shower, and a liberal supply of fir and hemlock boughs was scattered upon the ground in each tent.

"Well, ladies and gentlemen, young men and maidens, what is the program for this evening?" asked Uncle Horace, as the entire company gathered about a rousing fire of logs, in front of the tents, at the close of the first day in camp.

"A row on the lake," "a song," "a story," were the suggestions, but it was decided that everybody was too tired for a boat-ride, and that a song or two and a good story would be entertainment enough for that evening.

A half-hour was spent in sending across the lake the notes of an old, familiar song, a group of campers on the western shore soon taking up the strain and lending their voices to bid farewell to the dying day.

Then the cry of the younger people was renewed for a story, and by common consent the lot fell upon Uncle Horace. An extra log was rolled upon the fire, shawls and overcoats were brought out, and each member of the party made himself, or herself, as comfortable as possible.

Uncle Horace declared himself too tired for the telling of a story, but volunteered to give:

#### A CRAB-TALK:

"I went a fishing one day, quite a little while ago. Up here in the country. I was never much of a fisherman, but I thought if I went where there was a whole ocean full of fish, I might catch something."

"I wonder, Hal, if you ever saw a crab? Well he is one of the funniest fellows that I am acquainted with. He isn't an oyster, and yet you might call him cousin to the oyster; he isn't a lobster, and yet you might call him brother to the lobster."

"One crab that we caught that day had a shell about as large as a spelling-book, with the corners rounded off. Think of that, and then imagine five pairs of legs, four legs coming out at one side and four at the other, and then a pair armed with stout jaws at one end, and you will have a little idea of how he looked."

"On general principles a crab is always hungry, this variety particularly, and, naturally enough, he keeps on growing all the time.

But while he grows, his shell doesn't; so once a year he casts it off and a new and larger one grows in its stead. People call him a 'shedder crab' because of this little peculiarity, and while the shell is shed and soft he is thought to be very good eating."

"Another variety which we caught that day was called a 'horse-foot crab.' He was a big fellow, ten inches or so across his shell, which was shaped very much like the foot of a horse, and hence his name. He had a hinge in the center of his shell, and when he was turned over on his back he doubled up and looked to be pretty much all feet. His tail, which was as long as a new lead pencil, and hard and stiff and very sharp, was extended as a defence, and woe would it have been to any of us if we had received a thrust from it."

"There are many other kinds of crabs, although we only caught these two that day, and to each one of them, though of a very low order of creation, seems to have been given some peculiarity, some sign of that care which is ever all-potent things."

"One variety, called the hermit crab, has but a poor protection for his funny body in his shell, which is only partially covers it, and so he selects the empty shell of some sea-snail, backs his body into it and sets up housekeeping by himself, dragging his house about with him wherever he goes. From time to time, as his body grows, he forsakes his shell and hunts up a larger one."

"Then there is the calling crab, which sits up on the sandy beach and seems to beckon to his neighbors, and the fiddler crab, which gives a comical imitation of violin playing, and a dozen other varieties, whose names I can't now recall."

"Pretty much all of the crab family have a way of going backward, and just now I propose to imitate them, so if you expect this natural history talk to be continued longer to-night, you are mistaken."

And with this Uncle Horace arose, made his best bow, and disappeared in the seclusion of his tent. His example was followed by the others and the camp was soon wrapped "in shadows and silence," as Hal put it.

Early the next morning, Hal and his uncle and aunt stole quietly out from camp, before any of the others were awake, and were back with a nice pail of fish by the time the sun was well up over the tops of the tall maples.

It was one of the rules of this camp, as it should be of every camp if its members would get the most rest and pleasure from the outing, that, aside from the necessary tent and table work, no member was to be forced to do anything he did not desire to do. If one wished to go to sleep in the hammock, while another preferred to read a book under the shade of a friendly tree, and a third had a desire to go out on the lake, no fault was to be found, but each was at liberty to go his own way unmolested.

The second day in camp was spent in fixing up the surroundings, in dragging in a quantity of logs for the evening fires, and in a general effort to make everything comfortable and snug. A few short trips were made upon the lake, and it was discovered that the singing campers upon the western shore were old acquaintances.

In the evening a "boating party" was made up and with two fishing boats went out with torches to fish for horned pout. It was too late in the season for a large "catch," but after moving about in various places, at last a spot was found where they were "biting" and in the course of an hour or two, twenty fair sized pout had been taken, together with about the same number of perch. Harold voted this sort of fishing not much sport, and insisted that the mosquitoes "bit better than the fish," but the rest of the party seemed to enjoy it.

The next day was one of those damp and disagreeable ones when the sun is not able to push its rays through the clouds and mist. At times a little rain fell, and everybody was compelled to remain pretty closely in camp.

Having had a previous experience in this line our friends knew what to do, and selecting the larger of the three tents one of the bunks was removed, and the small oil-stove which served as a night-light in place of a lantern, was placed on a box at one end and set to work at its full capacity.

In a short time the tent was warm and dry and all of the party who wished to do so managed to squeeze inside. Stories were told, books were read, songs were sung, and a general good time was had. What seemed likely to prove a very disagreeable day, really turned out to be one of the most enjoyable of the week.

Uncle Horace and Hal were both ardent students of natural history, and one of their amusements consisted in making a list of all the different species of wild-birds seen during the week. Even in New England, birds are not as plentiful as a few years ago, but our observers recorded the following:

Common crow, red-winged black-bird, red-headed wood-



pecker, bluebird, wren, barn-swallow, robin, white-tailed thrush, king-fisher, English sparrow, song-sparrow, chip-sparrow.

One evening was very pleasantly spent around the fire in a "bird-talk," each member of the party contributing some anecdote about birds.

The great day of the week, however, was the one when "all hands" took their dinner with them and went down in boats to the "little pond," making a landing and eating their lunch under the shadow of a wide-spreading elm. Here Hal succeeded in catching a fine pair of turtles, though at the expense of some very wet and muddy feet.

The small steamer on the lake was frequently pressed in to service and many merry rides were had, while on pleasant evenings horse-back and carriage rides were indulged in on the road around the margin or the lake.

The end of the week came all too soon, and it was with reluctance that the camp was abandoned on Saturday night.

This season, two weeks at least will be required to meet the demands of the young people, and it is doubtful if they will be fully satisfied even then.

It is a cause for wonder that more people do not spend their vacations in tents, in the pure air and beneath the forest trees. It is not necessary to go far from home, nor are the expenses necessarily great. Try a vacation in this manner, and rejoice that life is worth living.

#### Old Acquaintances.

LET ME tell you a pretty story. Among the visitors in New York during the centennial celebration of 1889, was a gentleman on the staff of the Governor of Virginia. He had written to a friend to engage a horse for him to ride during his stay in New York. A white horse, proud-stepping and slender-limbed, was selected, and on the morning appointed was led in company with a coal-black steed to the spot where the Virginia gentleman and a friend were ready to mount, when, lo! the black horse pawed the ground, shook his head, showed great uneasiness, and altogether behaved so remarkably that he attracted great attention.

"As sure as I live," said the rider of the white steed to his companion, "you are mounted on *Black Diamond*, my own old horse!"

"Nonsense!" said the other equestrian. "You wouldn't know *Black Diamond* now, and he wouldn't know you."

By this time a little throng of spectators had gathered, interested in the scene. *Black Diamond's* saddle was taken off, and under it was discovered an old scar, and a little tuft of white hair, which proved his identity beyond a doubt. *When his old master mounted him the horse fairly quivered with delight, and gave a cry of gladness.* All through the centennial week there were two happy beings together, a man and a horse, and a horse sometimes shows intelligence so nearly human that one cannot but be glad when a great pleasure falls into the life of this faithful friend of man.

#### A Good Story about Andrew Jackson.

A VERY good story comes to us about Andrew Jackson. A boarding-house keeper at Washington had permitted a clerk in one of the departments to run up a large board bill. The clerk moved to another place, and refused payment. The poor woman, finding all other attempts to collect useless, called one morning at the White House and stated her case to the President. The President told her to go to the clerk, get a note payable in thirty days, and bring it to him. When she brought it he took a pen and wrote on the back, Andrew Jackson, and told her to put it in a bank for collection. In due time the clerk was notified by the bank. He paid no attention to the notice until a friend asked him if he knew who had indorsed the note. He replied that he did not believe anybody would be fool enough to indorse his note. His friend told him that the indorser was *Andrew Jackson*. The clerk lost no time in getting the money and paid the note. A few days after he received notice that his services were no longer needed in the department.

#### A Tribute to Christianity.

A. C. WHEELER of the New York Union, sometime since delivered a lecture in answer to Ingersoll. The following eloquent passage is taken from it:

"During twenty odd years of eventful toil in the great city I never found a depth of misery so deep, a poverty so rank, a crime so atrocious, a despair so black, that some humble follower of the Master did not find it out. Into all the holes and corners of wretchedness where vice and poverty, like twin wolves, had hunted down their prey, the policeman and reporter always found the hooded sisters or the missionary ahead of them. They were the first to come. They were the last to go. They stayed and put up their supplications when all else of earth had forsaken the wretch. They followed him to the prison cell and they stood beside him on the gallows, and they never forgot in all the obliquity of sin and the cry of human vengeance the eternal brotherhood of man. And they wanted no pay and they got no praise. They were doing the Master's work. True, it was 1,800 years ago when he called them and bid them go out and bind up the broken hearts, and dry the tears, and thus, with tender touches of tone, they carry out His mission. And in that time empires have fallen and races have become extinct, but these little streams have widened and deepened until they encircle our globe like its atmosphere and sweeten myriads of arid hearts."

#### The Arrow Head.

THIS IS the most abundant of Aboriginal implements.

Easily made, and its loss a daily occurrence, it is obviously why found in so great abundance. Frequently chipped into graceful form, it is oftener found flaked in a rude and bungling manner. This is readily accounted for by the fact that the material sometimes used did not admit of skillful chipping. The finest arrow-heads were made from Obsidian or volcanic glass, agatized and silicified woods, cornelian, moss-agates and other semi-precious stones found in the far Western section of the United States. Although the finished flaked objects are obtained in greatest numbers in the states bordering on the Pacific Ocean, the material was obtained many hundred miles inland. In the great Mississippi valley was found Jasper of many colors, and other flint-like substances, from which the Indian formed his points. On the Atlantic coast was found Jasper, Hornstone, Quartz, Quartzite, all of which aided in the manufacture of arrow-heads. Limestone and shales, too, were used as the writer has often experienced in his tramps over ploughed fields. Copper, it seems, played an important part in the manufacture of implements. Often have been picked up arrow-heads, made from this metal, which were hammered into shape. The greatest number of these metallic points were discovered in Wisconsin and bordering states, and it is supposed that the metal was brought from the Lake Superior copper region. Here was discovered abundant evidence that the mines there were extensively worked during the Prehistoric times. Nodules of copper, weighing several pounds, have been picked up in the Eastern and Middle States, which proves the origin of those discovered here. Although given the general name of arrow-head or point, these small implements often served as knives, for which purpose they were hafted in short handles. My readers would perhaps wish to know with what precision their makers handled them; so I have quoted from that admirable work "Antiquities of the Southern Indians," by Col. C. C. Jones, the following: He says on p. 259, "In the battle of Manilla, there fell of the armor-clad Christians, two hundred. Of the living, one hundred and fifty received seven hundred wounds from the Indian arrows." Again on p. 245, "Even the 'good armor' of the Spaniards did not avail for their protection against these missiles. Some of the soldiers swore 'that they had seen two red-oaks, each the thickness of the lower part of the leg, pierced from side to side by arrows.' I, myself, saw an arrow that had entered the butt of an elm to the depth of a span." Col. Jones quotes this Cabeza de Vaca, who accompanied De Soto on his disastrous expedition. My friend, Dr. W. I. Hoffman of the Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D. C., while a surgeon under the command of the late Gen. Custer, saw an Indian drive an iron tipped arrow clean through a buffalo. Col. Jones cites on p. 259, an instance of the deadly effect of this primitive artillery, wherein the Dakota chief Wah-na-ta is said, on one occasion, to have discharged his arrow with such force as to entirely pass through the body of a female buffalo, killing her calf on the other side. A. F. BERLIN.



THE NEW CHAPPAQUA MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE.

## A Happy School Home.

"DEAR old Chappaqua," as one of our boy friends always calls this school-home, is indeed worthy of enthusiastic loyalty. A recent visit to the school has proved the truth of all the pupils' statements in regard to the advantages of life in this suburban retreat. Situated on the western slope of a hill called Chappaqua Mountain, near the picturesque village of Chappaqua, the scene of Horace Greeley's famous experiments in farming, stands Chappaqua Mountain Institute. It is only thirty-two miles from New York, an hour's ride by the Harlem Road, and many city boys and girls make it their school home. It unites all the advantages of country life with many which come from nearness to a great city.

A few years ago the school building was burned and from the ashes arose the new Chappaqua, a beautiful brick and concrete edifice supplied with all modern conveniences and comforts and admirably adapted to the needs of such a school. New York people, who are accustomed to pay for sunshine at so much per ray and then have no guarantee that the goods will be delivered, are delighted to find that the large, airy rooms of the pupils all have sunshine during some part of the day. The immaculate neatness of the whole building seems like the outward symbol of the purity of life always found among the Friends. The girls have their own parlor supplied with Brussels carpet, pretty rugs, tables, sofas, a piano, books and beautiful pictures. In this parlor they have jolly Saturday evening entertainments in great variety. We were also given a peep into the girls' bedrooms—rooms showing every evidence of dainty, girlish tastes. When we asked: "Who takes care of your rooms?" a bright, happy looking girl replied: "Oh! our Chappaqua Mother takes great pride in teaching us to care for our little homes, and we take pleasure in carrying out her wishes."

The boys have a reading room on the plan of the Boston reading room—and all the pupils have access to the leading magazines and papers, including seven daily papers.

The grounds present as many attractions as the building. At the foot of the hill on which the Institute is situated, a

pond gives splendid skating during the cold season. During our visit the boys came in after an hour's skating before breakfast. Oatmeal, steak, potatoes, bread and butter beat a hasty retreat before the onslaught of the hungry skaters and milk disappeared in such quantities that it seemed as if Father Knickerbocker in his home on Manhattan Island would need to look somewhere besides the Chappaqua part of Westchester county for his milk supply. But Winter does not have a monopoly of the glories of nature around Chappaqua. In Summer the large grounds furnish ample room for tennis and croquet for the girls and base ball for the boys. A warm friend of the school has recently given a sufficient sum of money to fit up a good ball ground. Back of the school building a beautiful grove extends towards Chappaqua Mountain. In this grove in a dwelling, with mysterious subterranean chambers, which the Loys themselves have built, year after year, during the English History season, James the First visits Oliver Cromwell, the uncle of the great Cromwell, and is fed on frogs caught not far away. Mysterious bags of apples find their way to this play house and the Superintendent of the school has even been known to find there huge nests of eggs, deposited, no doubt, by accommodating hens who understood the significance of the Saturday holiday. In the Fall the hills are made lively—and the squirrels glum—by boys with huge bags of hickory-nuts, black-walnuts, beech-nuts, chestnuts and hazel-nuts which are to be stored away for Winter use.

The wide extended fields and woods not only offer opportunities for recreation but also give rare facilities for scientific work. During the Spring term of last year two hundred species of wild flowers were found by the Botany students within easy reach of the Institute, while the Geology students always find that the hills and valleys of Chappaqua offer plenty of opportunities for profitable investigation.

The Institute is under the care of the Friends although by no means a denominational school. As William Penn excluded from his colony no one believing "in one Almighty God," so his followers have always been distinguished for



their perfect religious toleration. A pure Christian influence without denominational bias is a characteristic feature of all Friends' schools.

Ever since the Quakers introduced the printing press into Philadelphia in 1686, and a public high school in 1689, they have been noted for their interest in education, and in their school at Chappaqua we see worked out in practice the distinctive features of their educational ideas.

We asked one of the boys if he saw much of the girls. "Yes, through a spy-glass," he replied. The fact is, however, that the boys and girls meet at table, at receptions and in the class-rooms and the most vigorous opponents of co-education could not oppose the system as conducted at Chappaqua. The association at table and receptions gives a freedom from awkwardness and constraint to the girls and a refinement to the boys which could not be gained in a school not co-educational. Everyone acknowledges the advantages which come from having girls and boys together in a classroom. In a United States History class girls will glow with enthusiasm over the peaceful colonization and establishment of homes by the early settlers, and their interest keeps the boys wide awake over a part of the history which would otherwise seem tame. On the other hand a girl is often confused by the accounts of wars and fails to comprehend the grand plan of the campaigns of the Rebellion until she catches the martial fire of her boy class-mates. A famous teacher was once asked which she would rather teach, boys or girls. When she replied, "Boys" and was asked to explain her preference, she said: "I will illustrate from my physiology class where there are both girls and boys. One of the girls once asked me if there were a hole straight through the head from ear to ear. A boy would not have asked such a question. He would have experimented with a slate pencil—not in his own ear but in the ear of his next-door neighbor." Thus mixed classes bring division of labor—the girls can ask questions and the boys answer them by performing experiments.

The different courses of study at Chappaqua offer preparation for college through the classical department, for citizenship by means of such studies as Political Economy and Constitutional History and for business by means of a commercial course which includes lectures by business men and such practical work as the discussion of Bradstreet's Reports and the financial articles in the newspapers. The aim of the school, however, is above all things to give girls and boys a guarded education which shall fit them for homes and for life in any vocation. Education in this school includes physical, mental, moral and aesthetic training. Believing that the hand and mind must be trained together and that the mind can be trained through the hand, the Managers are making plans for the introduction of manual training. During the last vacation one of the teachers was appointed to investigate the workings of manual training in the New York College for the Training of Teachers at No. 9 University Place which is the center of information on such progressive subjects. When manual training is added to a school which already offers Latin, Greek, German, French, English, mathematics, science, type-writing, drawing, painting, music and elocution, a combination of advantages will be offered which are not often found in one school.

"How did you become so good a speller?" was asked a boy who had been trained at the Institute. "Oh! Mr. Collins is the most particular man you ever saw about spelling. He teaches spelling to the whole school every day and he makes it interesting, too, by giving us newspaper sentences to write, paragraphs from our own compositions and words we are using daily. They give lots of reading and writing, too, out there and we don't have to read in old reading books that we know by heart. We read Shakespeare, Longfellow, Lowell, Holmes, Hawthorne, Burroughs, Warner, and all about Washington, Franklin and Cromwell and I tell you it is just splendid."

In science the pupils say they have one of the finest teachers ever known, and science is not taught from books alone but from things first and books afterward. We know that science is made practical and experimental for a tradition at Chappaqua tells of the visit of a little baby to the school and the eagerness of the girls to examine the hole in the baby's head "before it closed up." They doubtless expected to study psychology through the hole in the baby's head much as the process of digestion was studied in Alexis St. Martin.

One of the distinctive features of this school is the lecture course given by noted specialists. These lectures, once a week on literary, scientific and historical subjects or the live questions of the day, are given by men and women from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Syracuse or any place which happens to be so fortunate as to claim able speakers. This year a course in elocution is also being given by a fine elocutionist from New York City. One of the lecturers asked Mr. Collins, "Are the pupils obliged to attend the lectures?" With an amused smile he replied: "I should have difficulty in forcing them to stay away." It would be hard to find a more attentive audience. Not an eye is turned from the speaker during the lecture and even the twelve-year-old boys in the front row are wide awake from beginning to end. In addition to lectures and readings by talented persons outside, the teacher of science gives lectures once a week on scientific subjects.

The Friends heartily believe the Bohemian proverb, "A school without discipline is a mill without water," yet the submission to necessary discipline is brought about in such a quiet way that the happiest relations exist between teachers and pupils. This is largely due to the skill and tact of the Principal. No pupil ever goes out from the school who does not entertain feelings of loving loyalty and respect for the head of the Institute.

Even visitors are deeply impressed. Prof. Rood, of Columbia College, states, "My visit to Chappaqua Mountain Institute gave me great pleasure; the beautiful order everywhere apparent, and the pleasant relations existing between pupils and teachers, indicated the presence of guiding hand of rare ability. I do not think that I have ever found in any similar institution so much to please me."

So beautiful is the home and school life at Chappaqua that it combines the calm restfulness of Charles Lamb's picture of a Quakers' Meeting with the stirring energy of William Penn's settlements.

#### Prizes—Prizes.

IN ORDER to develop a liking for literary work among the many PLAIN TALK readers, the managers have seen fit to make an offer of cash prizes for stories for the magazine, written by subscribers only, and to that end the following offer and rules governing the contest are given:

For the best story of adventure written by a male subscriber, \$5.00.

For the best story written by a female subscriber, \$5.00.

For the second best of either, \$2.00.

The rules governing this contest are as follows:

1. The story must not contain less than 2,400 nor more than 2,500 words.

2. All subscribers can compete, and subscriptions may be sent in with the manuscript.

3. Packet note sheets must be used, and only one side of the paper must be written on. Thin manilla cut 5½ by 8½ makes excellent copy paper, and provided this is used, the postage on the story will not cost over 4 cents.

4. The leaves must not be stitched, pinned, or tied together with ribbons. Each must be separate and numbered consecutively.

5. The writer's *nom de plume* must appear at the top of the first page, and the same *nom de plume* must be written on a sealed envelope to accompany the manuscript. Inside this envelope must be a slip giving both the *nom de plume* and the real name of the writer.

The stories selected as the prize-winners will be published in PLAIN TALK, as soon as practicable after the close of the contest. Each will be illustrated by PLAIN TALK's special artist, and a portrait of the writer will also be published if desired.

7. All manuscript must be sent to PLAIN TALK Publishing Company, 5 Beekman street, N. Y., and no manuscript will be returned unless return postage is enclosed.

8. The contest will close August 15th, 1890, when each story will be read and the winners announced as soon thereafter as possible.

Now here is the chance of a life time, to win a prize, to study the art of story writing, and to see the result of your endeavor in print, and it is hoped all will avail themselves of this opportunity.



ENTRANCE TO LLEWELLYN PARK, ORANGE, N. J.

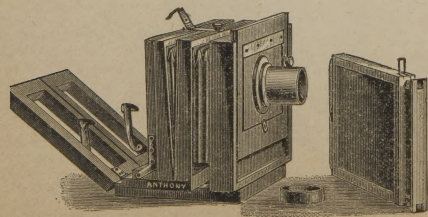
## THE AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER.

BY J. M. S. HAMILTON.

IN A RECENT number of the *Photographic Times* appears an article upon "The Troubles of an Amateur Photographer" and I presume it is but a sample of the trouble under which all amateur photographers labor. After innumerable the blessings to which that particular amateur had fallen heir, instancing youth, comeliness of person and an abundance of ready cash, which are counted as naught when in an unguarded moment he invests in a camera and proceeds forthwith to photograph his best friend.

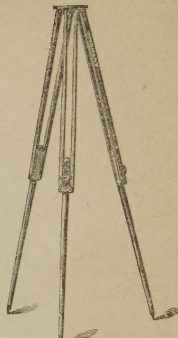
Now this particular camera was minus the tripod, or legs, on which to rest when focusing, a term used when getting the object you wish to photograph in position on the ground glass. After vainly trying to improvise a rest for it a compromise was made by holding it in the hands and pointing at the friendly sitter. The result, tho' not entirely satisfactory, was something over which the artist was justly elated for in place of the single head which his friend possessed the photographic production contained no less than three, a fact the friend did not appreciate as he should, as was evidenced by later remarks which were rather pointed. Sundry other attempts with this camera ended in about the same way, which wrought so upon the feelings of this amateur that the camera was left one summer day at a transient hotel without any address mark or indication to whom it might belong, in order that it might never be seen again by the owner.

How many amateurs have lost interest in the camera on encountering similar obstacles will never be known. It is an impossibility to hold an object in the hand as steadily as the camera should be held to produce a good picture, especially when only one object is desired photographed. To all to whom quality and quality only is to count, I would say purchase a camera with the tripod, or rest.



CAMERA WITH SINGLE ACHROMATIC LENS.

First quality can only be secured by a good lens and in fact the lens is the camera. A rapid rectilinear lens is the lens for an amateur. With this lens an amateur may be sure of producing a photograph satisfactory to others as well as himself, always providing that the camera has been perfectly steady after uncapping, or, in other words, after permitting the light to enter the lens upon the sensitive plate. The camera is a square bellows, on one end of which is attached the lens fitted in a brass tube and upon the other



TRIPOD.

a square of ground glass, upon which the object to be photographed is produced by the rays of light passing through the lens being gathered and focused by the same upon the glass at the rear of the camera. By covering the head and the rear of the camera at the same time with a square of dark cloth the object can be plainly seen upon the glass. The picture is more or less plainly seen according to the diaphragm of the lens used.

The camera should be made without crack or crevice by which light could enter and should be so constructed that after the back was closed light could only enter through the lens when uncovered.

It would appear that all amateurs are possessed with the one idea in the beginning that *everything* must be done rapidly, when, in fact, the reverse should be the rule. An amateur will, in the beginning, take his stand rapidly, and focus the object more rapidly, it would seem with the idea that houses, barns, trees and landscape in general will, like the witches of old, take unto themselves wings and fly before he can get the picture on his plate. After all this rapidity what is the result? He finds, when the plate is developed, that in his haste he has neglected to remove the slide over the plate and to reward him for all his trouble and haste he has a perfectly blank plate, the light having failed to touch it; or, if he uses a slow plate, the desired picture can only be faintly traced upon it; and if he uses a rapid plate with all his haste he has not been rapid enough, and the plate is fogged or spoiled by over exposure.

The amateur should let a methodical slowness accompany all his movements. He should examine each object and settle it in his mind that it is really worth wasting a plate upon, for in time the number of discarded plates will be legion. He should then select his stand with more care, a place where there are the least shadows, and where an evenness of light will permit of a calm enjoyment of the object he intends to photograph, for after all said and done some artistic sense of light and shade is requisite to make a good photograph. And with utmost care he should now proceed to focus the picture upon the ground glass. Having removed the cap from the lens let him cover the rear of the camera and his head with a heavy piece of cloth which will permit him to see the picture upon the glass plainly, adjust the bellows or camera by lengthening or shortening it so that the correct focus is reached and the picture shows plainly and distinctly upon the ground glass. Examine it well and when suited fasten the camera at that spot, making it rigid. Then drop the ground glass and substitute for it a holder containing the sensitive plate which is exactly the same size as the ground glass and is made to fit in



LENS WITH DIAPHRAGM



TRAY.



exactly the same position. Cover the lens with cap and remove the slide which is over the sensitive plate; now remove the cap again from off the lens and give the plate (which is a slow one for outdoor use) about five seconds' exposure; replace the cap on the lens, reinsert the slide over the plate in the holder before taking the holder from the camera and by no means permit a ray of light to get upon the plate until it has been developed.

To one who desires to engage in the pastime of photography the outfit should consist of the camera, a dark lantern, which is so called from the fact that the glass or globe is of a dark red tint, two trays, made for the purpose of holding the sensitive plates in the developing process, a bottle of hydrochinon, by the use of which the picture is developed on the plate, and a pound of the hyposulphite of soda,

by which the picture is fixed or made permanent upon the plate after being developed, a copious supply of cold water, and a small rack upon which the plate may be rested upon its edge to drain and dry, and a dozen sensitive plates.



DARK LANTERN.



RACK.

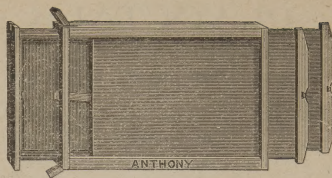
Cameras are made in all sizes; that is, they are made to hold a plate of glass varying in size from 2 x 3 inches to 11 x 14 inches, and in the cheaper varieties, contain a single achromatic lens, and a single diaphragm, while the more expensive contain the rectilinear, or double lens, with four or more diaphragms, (meaning a piece of metal or gutta percha with a central hole varying in size) permitting more or less light to enter the camera and apparently increase the focal depth of the lens.

The amateur should endeavor to secure a rectilinear lens, as with it he cannot fail to receive greater satisfaction than by the single achromatic lens. In selecting a camera it would be well to remember that a large picture can be cut smaller to suit, but a small picture cannot so readily be enlarged.

By photography is meant the exact reproduction of any object upon a sensitive substance. Silver it has been discovered is the most sensitive of any known substance to a white light and the plates of glass used in photography are covered upon one side with a preparation of silver and gelatine, this side is called the sensitive side of the plate and should be placed in the camera facing the lens.

There are a number of manufacturers of sensitive plates of greater or less rapidity, but, as before said, the best plate for the amateur is a moderately slow plate requiring from four to five seconds' exposure, especially for out-door or landscape views. Every camera is furnished with one "holder" for holding one or two plates. The "holder" is a light framework of wood fitted with grooves in which the plate is slid and again covered with a tight-fitting slide of cardboard. The plate should not be removed from the holder other than in a dark room, in which only the light of a dark lantern is permitted at the time of removal: hence a person desiring to take in a day's tour a dozen or more pictures should provide himself with six or more holders and fill them before leaving his dark room.

As the name implies the plates are very sensitive to a white (or day) light and great care should be used to prevent a white light resting upon a plate until after the "fixing" otherwise the plate is spoiled and is of no value (excepting of course the times when the light is permitted to enter through the lens when a picture is being taken). The most interesting portion of photography is the developing of the



DRY PLATE HOLDER

plates. Before and after being exposed in the camera they are of a silvery whiteness, and show no signs of an impression, remote or otherwise, and it is only when placed in the developer that the picture shows gradually upon the plate, and to watch the picture grow upon an apparently white surface is the most interesting part of photography.

After the plate has been exposed in the camera, and as before stated jealously covered before taking therefrom, take it to your dark room in the holder and there remove it, having placed enough of the hydrochinon in one of the trays (which is a shallow dish made a trifle larger than the plate) to cover the plate. Place the plate in the hydrochinon, with the sensitive side up always, and gently rock the tray so that the developer may flow in even waves back and forth over it until the upper side becomes black and the under side just begins to change, (do not permit the under side to grow black). Now take it from the developer and allow the water to run on it to rinse it. In the other tray you have placed the solution of hyposulphite of soda which is composed of 1 lb. of the hyposulphite of soda and 1 oz. of pulverized alum to 2 quarts of water. This should be mixed and allowed to stand for some time before straining. This is called the "fixing bath," and the plate should be allowed to remain in this for five minutes after becoming transparent. After the plate is taken from the fixing bath it should receive a thorough washing in order to remove every trace of the soda. Allow the water to run on it for half an hour, then take it out and place it in the drying rack where it can drain and dry in some spot where the temperature is even and out of the sunlight.

Both the hydrochinon and the hypo of soda can be used repeatedly, only care should be taken after once being used to pour them in a separate bottle and not mix with that which remains fresh. Do not mix your trays; let each have its use.

### [To be Continued.]

#### What is a Good Book.

A good book is one that interests you.

One in which the bright rather than the dark side of life is shown.

One that makes you see how mean are the small vices or life and how despicable are the great sins.

One that glorifies virtue in woman and honor in man.

One in which the good are rewarded and the wicked are made to suffer—suffering, by the by, that may be of the conscience—or in a more material way, a reward given either on earth, or promised for the future.

One which convinces you that this world is filled with good men and good women.

One that breathes forth the goodness of a Creator, and respects His all-governing laws.

One that makes you feel you are meeting real people—people who elevate your thoughts as you associate with them.

A good book is one that you remember with pleasure, that when the dull hours come you can think of with interest and feel that there are people with whom you have a most interesting acquaintance, who are yet only characters of the imagination.

A good book is the one that we want when weary of the people of the world; that we can read out aloud and discuss; that we can hand to our daughters that it may give them pleasure, and which will only be a stepping-stone on the road of taste, not only to better and nobler books, but a nobler life.

That is a good book—and, my friends, there are hundreds of them.—*Ladies' Home Journal*.

# • • PLAIN TALK • •

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Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post Office.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1890.

A SPECIAL book offer is made elsewhere in this issue.  
Look it up.

AS THE first of a series of articles on educational topics, PLAIN TALK gives this month an illustrated sketch of Chappaqua Mountain Institute. This is a school with the best of records, and one which parents will do well to investigate. We have no doubt that circulars will be sent to all applicants upon request. The address is simply Chappaqua, N. Y.

INTO a single paragraph Edward Everett once condensed his estimation of what constituted a good education. Thus: "To read the English language well, to write with dispatch a neat legible hand, and be master of the first four rules of arithmetic, so as to dispose of at once, with accuracy, every question of figures which comes up in practice—I call this a good education. And if you add the ability to write pure grammatical English, I regard this a good education. These are the tools. You can do much with them, but you are hopeless without them. They are the foundation; and unless you begin with these, all your flashy attainments, a little geology, and all other ologies and osophies, are ostentatious rubbish." And he was right, and he was wrong.

IT WAS John Ruskin who said: "I believe the first test of a truly great man is his humility. I do not mean by humility, doubt of his own power, or hesitation in speaking his opinions, but a right understanding of the relation between what he can do or say and the rest of the world's doings and sayings. All great men not only know their own business, but usually know that they know it, and are not only right in their main opinions, but they usually know that they are right in them; only they do not think much of themselves on that account. Arnolfo knows that he can build a good dome at Florence; Albert Durer writes calmly to one who had found fault with his work, 'It cannot be better done.' Sir Isaac Newton knows that he has worked out a problem or two that would have puzzled anyone else, only they do not expect their fellow-men therefor to fall down and worship them; they have a curious sense of powerlessness, feeling that their greatness is not in them but *through* them, that they could not do or be anything else than God made them; and they see something divine and God-made in every other man they meet, and they are endlessly, foolishly, incredibly merciful."

FOR EVERY public school a flag! Let this be the cry until the stars and stripes fly to the breezes at every cross-road, upon every hill-top, and in every valley in all this broad land.

IN THESE go-ahead days the boys and girls are making themselves heard. The boys of the Central Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, Del., have a "Boys' Mission Club" and issue each month a handsome magazine called the *Mission Courier*. A good hint for other bright lads.

## "Plain Talk" and Its Aims.

PLAIN TALK is intended for "boys and girls at school and home," and, withal, "speaks for itself." Still, as it is seen each month for the first time by many readers, it may not be out of place to briefly state what it is, and what it hopes to be.

For the present, then, PLAIN TALK is an illustrated monthly paper devoted to those lines which are of interest to right-minded and right-thinking young people, and to those older ones who have not passed the boundary line of "four score and ten." It has no sympathy with, and only pity for, those boys and girls who revel in the regulation "blood and thunder" serial, but believes that in nine cases out of ten they would prefer wholesome literature if it was as easily obtained.

It gives each month more or less space to original stories of adventure, tales of school life, vacation experiences, interesting anecdotes, biographical notes, etc. In all its statements it aims to be both brief and accurate; in short to be true to its name—to deal only in plain talk. It believes that a hearty laugh is good medicine, and tries to now and then coax a smile to the lips of its readers.

It aims to give the latest intelligence concerning the different branches of collecting, touching upon stamps, coins, minerals, Indian relics, natural history, etc. In the line of nature it does not believe in collecting merely for the sake of collecting, but would inculcate in its readers a love for all the beautiful things that God has made, and a respect for the rights of even the humblest of His creatures.

Prize "word hunts" are never-failing objects of interest, and each month's contests in this line are sharp and exciting. A competent editor has special charge of this department, and liberal prizes are given.

"How To Do It" is the title given to one department, and under this heading will be found directions for the making of all sorts of contrivances, and the doing of all manner of things.

Another department is known as "Games and Pastimes," and seasonal instructions are given for games, both new and old, for in-door as well as out-door amusement.

The ladies have a department all to themselves, though it is an open question if the interest in it is confined entirely to the gentler sex. Flowers, fancy work, and the like, all have attention under careful editorial supervision.

PLAIN TALK's readers are invited and urged to take the fullest possible share in the discussion of matters of interest to them in the various departments. The exchange column may be used by all subscribers, under certain restrictions, free of charge.

A series of articles on educational topics has been arranged for, as well as one on "amateur photography." In short, every effort is made that the paper may cover in an attractive way every field which is of interest to the bright boys and girls of to-day, and it hopes to grow in circulation and influence until it finds its way to tens of thousands of homes.



# GAMES AND PASTIMES.

Contributions for this department are solicited in regard to every variety of indoor and outdoor amusement.

## The Next Word Hunt.

THE word selected for the next word-building contest is SUB-TROPICAL.

Note this particular: Hereafter all prize papers must be sent to GEO. D. THOMAS, 14 High Street, Waltham, Mass., who is to have charge of this contest.

The rules governing the contest are as follows:

1. Only subscribers can compete, but any one may send their subscriptions in with their list of words.
2. Proper names will not be allowed, and only words found in the body of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which will be considered a final authority in deciding all disputed points.
3. Prefixes, suffixes and abbreviations will not be counted, nor will plurals be allowed.
4. Words marked "obsolete" will not be counted, unless they are still current in some one of their meanings.
5. Words of different meaning, but spelt the same, count as one word.
6. Words of the same meaning, but spelled differently, count one word for each spelling, unless one is obsolete.
7. No letter can be used more than once in the same word unless used more than once in the word or words used as a basis for the contest.
8. All lists must be written in ink (or on a type writer) and must be alphabetically arranged, and the words numbered consecutively.
9. The full name and address of the contestant must be written at the top of the first sheet, and also the word used as the basis of the contest.
10. In case of a miscount, the number of errors and the general neatness of the work will be taken into consideration in awarding the prize.

The contest will close June 10th, and the result will be announced in the July number.

The first prize will be a copy each of Martin Chuzzlewit, Our Mutual Friend, and Christmas Stories; the second prize a copy each of Oliver Twist, and Sketches by Boz; the third prize a copy each of Old Curiosity Shop, and Great Expectations.

## Hare and Hounds.

THIS GAME is popular in England, and deserves a more prominent place in the list of American sports. It trains to endurance, pluck, and perseverance; it leads its followers into the open fields, over fences and ditches, up hill and down, and gives them pure, invigorating air to breathe into their wide-open lungs.

Most players are familiar with the simple rules of the game they play now and then, but not often enough.

"Hare and hounds" should be run across country almost every Saturday. Friday, after school, there should be a "meet" in some convenient barn or other place where boys are wont to congregate. Each corner should bring as many old newspapers as he can legitimately capture at home, to make "scent." This important article is manufactured by tearing the paper into small pieces an inch or two square.

Sometimes the printers in a town have scraps of paper which fall from their trimming machines, and which they sell very cheaply for "scent," but, after all, the jolly time about the "scent" bag is one of the pleasantest features of the game, and the use of the ready-made article is not to be encouraged. When the two "scent" bags are filled, a couple of hares must be chosen. These should be fast runners, well acquainted with the country over which the run is to be made. The rest of the crowd—the hounds—should elect a "master of hounds," who is to command the pack.

Saturday morning, bright and early, all meet at the appointed place. At the word of the "master of hounds" off dart the "hares." They are to run a certain distance on a given road, then hide a bundle of paper, and from that point begin to lay the scent and take their own course, not, however, parting company. When eight minutes have passed, the "master of hounds" sounds his whistle, and off go the pack well together. The bundle is found, another whistle, and the pursuers dart away along the paper trail.

When the hares turn back they leave a little flag hanging in a tree, and take the shortest cut for home. Until this point is reached it is best to keep the pack together, but from this flag the hounds have a race for the starting-point, and the first man in wins the prize of the day—a bit of ribbon, or some other equally simple memento. It is so seldom that the hares are caught that we have described the game without supposing that event. If the hares are overtaken and touched by one of the pack, all stop, and, after a rest, take the run home as it has been described. This game furnishes splendid exercise in the best gymnasium of the world—the open country—and we urge it upon all live young Americans.

## Blowing Bubbles.

NOTHING has ever yet been invented which quite takes the place of bubble-blowing. If the suds are properly made, bubbles may be blown that will last for an hour or more. First, dissolve one part, by weight, of white soap, shaved, in forty parts of water, and filter it. Then mix two parts, by measure, of pure glycerine, with the one part of the soap-suds, at a temperature of 66°, and after shaking them together very thoroughly in a bottle, leave them at rest for several days. A clear liquid will settle, with a turbid one above. Draw off the clear with a siphon, taking great care not to mix them. Bubbles blown from this—well, they can't quite be packed in a box and sent by express, but they are very durable.

## The Five Arab Maxims.

THE following is the correct reading of the five Arab maxims printed last month:

Never tell all you may know; for he who tells everything he knows, often tells more than he knows.

Never attempt all you can do; for he who attempts everything he can do, often attempts more than he can do.

Never believe all you may hear; for he who believes everything he hears, often believes more than he hears.

Never lay out all you can afford; for he who lays out everything he can afford, often lays out more than he can afford.

Never decide upon all you may see; for he who decides upon everything he sees, often decides upon more than he sees.

## Seega—An Out-Door or an In-Door Game.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Field* recently gave the following particulars of a new and interesting game:

While in camp at the Monastery of St. Catherine, Mount Sinai, I observed Bedouins and Egyptians playing with black and white pebbles in the sand, a game which proves to be clever and entertaining. They called the game "Seega," and the pebbles or men "kelb." They played in holes in the sand, but it can be played as well on a common board ruled with 25, 49 or 81 squares. An ordinary draught board and men will answer very well.

Seega requires a field of 25 squares, 5 on each side, and 24 kelbs, 12 of each color; but it can also be played on a board of 49 squares with 48 men; or of 81 squares and 80 men, but the latter make the game of tedious length. It is played by two persons alternately, and comprises two parts—first, the placing of the men or kelbs, and secondly, moving the same. It is begun by the first player placing in the field two kelbs, either on adjoining or far separated squares, as he chooses. The second player lays down two kelbs in like manner, and this is continued alternately until all have been placed on the board, taking care, however, to leave the centre square unoccupied.

Then the first player moves one of his kelbs backward, forward, or sideways, but never diagonally. Obviously, the first move must be into the middle square of the field. Each player tries to move so as to catch one of his adversary's kelbs between two of his own kelbs in horizontal or in perpendicular lines, not in a diagonal. A kelb so caught is removed from the field. If, however, in moving, one player places his own kelb between two of his opponent's he suffers no loss; the position must be forced by the opponent. If the player, having captured one of his adversary's kelbs, can move the same kelb so as to place a second or a third in jeopardy, he has a right to do so. Should one player become blocked and unable to move the other either continues moving until he opens a way for the first, or he has to remove one of his own kelbs from the field, selecting one that permits the first player to move. The game is continued until one or the other player has lost all but one of his kelbs.

I played the game repeatedly with the Bedouins, and the above rules were all they seemed to have, but I subsequently found it expedient to add another, to wit: A player having captured one of his opponent's kelbs, cannot make a second move after he has laid down his kelb captured, the object being to limit the time for making a possible second on the third move.

# PHILATELY.

ALVAH DAVISON, - - - - - EDITOR,  
176 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

NOW that "La Grippe" will no longer serve as an excuse for the non-arrival of the customary papers, we shall soon be beguiled with "Summer vacations," "Excessive heat," etc., instead.

The first number of *Hubbard's Magazine* presents a very good appearance. The many changes this paper has undergone, is causing it to age rapidly, it now being in its seventh volume although not yet four years old.

Mr. C. F. Rothfuchs intends hereafter to devote all of his time to picking up rare stamps to fill the wants of collectors. He is closing out his cigar and tobacco business, and henceforth the nation's representatives will have to get trusted elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of America* seconds the nomination of the following gentlemen for officers of the American Philatelic Association: Jno. K. Tiffany, C. B. Corwin, A. L. Holman, Chas. Gregory and R. C. H. Brock. Those who wish to be on the winning side had better get into line at once, as there isn't a tickle this side of Christendom, that can beat the one mentioned.

I wonder if that work on the United States Envelopes which has got to be such an aged chestnut will be ready by the time the next convention meets? It would be a paying scheme for the publishers to spring their trap about that time, as the boys will be well provided with money with which to wear the beauties of Gotham.

The Brooklyn Philatelic Club have started a new wrinkle in the shape of a stamp pedigree, and the idea is as follows: A party has a rare stamp which he wishes to have chronicled, so he forwards it with the fee of fifty cents. Two photographs of the stamp are then taken, one of them being pasted in the Club's register with the record, while the other is pasted on the certificate, which is issued to the owner of the stamp. This certificate may be of little use at present, but five or ten years hence, it will prove that the stamp which agrees with the photograph, was in existence at the date of the certificate, and is not of recent origin; and if the varieties are pretty generally registered, an idea can be obtained as regards their numbers.

I saw in one of the philatelic papers, a short time ago, a note regarding the list of members of the A. P. A., the writer thinking that this list was published separate from the laws, because it was thought best not to delay the laws until the list could be completed. This is erroneous. The members' names and the laws are published separately for a purpose, and that purpose was explained at the convention in 1888, at Boston, when the change was made. It seems that many dealers both here and in foreign countries, were in the habit of asking for a copy of the laws, with which was incorporated the names of the members, and their only purpose was, evidently, to get the names, as they failed to join. To remedy this, the two are now issued separately, and only the members of the Association receive the list of names.

The following clipping from the editorial column of the *New York Press* recalls to mind the matter of the reduction of letter postage to one cent per ounce. There is little doubt in the mind of anyone who has given the subject any thought, that this is coming sometime, but whether we shall see it in one year or in five, is the question:

Platform pledges, in the opinion of *The Press*, are made to be kept. If not, they ought to be, and the people ought to insist that they be not trifled with by making pledges that something of value will be done, and then not doing it. This is the reason why *The Press* calls renewed attention to the declaration of the Republican National Convention of 1888 that "we demand the reduction of letter postage to one cent per ounce." The time is thoroughly ripe for the improvement promised in this expression of Republican policy. Postmaster General Wanamaker has risen above the old idea that so crippled the efficiency of this department, the idea that it must be self sustaining; something that is not exacted of any other branch of the government, and that none, except of course, the Treasury Department, which collects the bulk of the revenues, should be expected to realize. Let Mr. Wanamaker go further and give the people penny letter postage. He could do nothing else that would so perpetually establish a grateful remembrance of his fame as an administrator.

The new list of members of the A. P. A. has been issued and from examination, it appears to be a great improvement over the list before it, that one being noted for its many errors. The present list appears to be published by the Secretary and not by the Association as has been the habit heretofore.

Mr. E. R. Habrouck of Newburgh, N. Y., who at one time dealt extensively in stamps, has returned to the ranks again. Mr. Hasbrouck recently fell on to some of the rare Mobile locals and he hopes to realize considerable on them. The writer has the pleasure of knowing Mr. Hasbrouck, and he can vouch for his being all wool and a yard wide every time.

Will some philatelist inform us what the reason is that the Northern Mutual Telegraph stamps are not catalogued in our price lists?—Curiosity Collector.

Great Jupiter's Guns! Will some aspiring philatelist who wishes to see his name emblazoned in letters of gold on the very pedestal of fame, arise, and in clarion tones which can be heard from the ice-capped peaks of Greenland to the darkest depths of benighted Africa, tell us why in the name of the immortal Chalmers any telegraph stamps are catalogued? What have they got to do with the postal system? What connection have they with the government revenue? What business have they with philately anyhow!

I was in the store of the J. W. Scott Company toward evening, a few days ago, and Mr. Scott told me to call in the next morning. Thinking it was only a matter of a piece of news which would "keep," I failed to get in until 11 o'clock. I was then told that I was just five minutes too late, as Mr. Scott had on hand a collection which he knew I would like to see, and it had been sold and taken away a few minutes before I arrived. This collection was considered one of the finest or the finest in America, as it consisted of the complete issues—mostly unused—up to 1882. I believe there were only about six stamps lacking, and when we consider the large number of old stamps, which it is impossible to obtain, we can get an idea of what this collection must be. It was thought that it would be offered at an auction sale, in lots, but some one not previously known as a collector took it entire; who he was, I did not learn. We can imagine that it required some cash to purchase those stamps, and while I did not get the figures, I think it could not have been short of ten thousand dollars.

I don't see why some of the papers are saying hard things about the new issue of stamps. The public save about a square mile of "licking" every day, and that is something to be thankful for. I wonder if the saving in cost will pay for the new dies that were made?



I have often been asked by collectors, to describe the recut, or as they are sometimes called, the retouched dies of the United States envelope stamps. There are many who cannot tell the difference between the "recut" and the regular, and their ignorance is excusable, as the catalogues are minus any details by which the novice could hope to distinguish them. Above are given illustrations of the two varieties, the first being the recut die and the other the regular die of the 1884 issue. After the regular dies have been used to print a large number of impressions, they become worn and print badly, and they are then given into the hands of the engraver, who retouches or recuts them, so they will give a clearer impression. This process makes the lines sharper, but it destroys their regularity as shown in the first illustration. The wavy lines are there seen to be irregular and jagged, instead of continuous as in the other and regular die. There are many varieties of the recut dies, in some of them the recutting being very faint, while in others it is very marked, and as the recut variety are worth much more than the ordinary die, it will pay the collector to hunt out the two varieties.



# THE American Archaeological Association.

President, A. F. BERLIN, Allentown, Pa.  
Vice-President, Dr. D. S. McARTHUR, Lacrosse, Wis.  
Secretary, ALVAH DAVISON, 176 Broadway, N. Y. City.  
Treasurer, E. J. SHERIDAN, 235 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Librarian, CHAS. A. PERKINS, Wakefield, Mass.  
Exchange Superintendent, J. R. NISSELY, Ada, Ohio.  
Quarterly Detector,  
Board of Trustees, JO. WIGLEWORTH, Wilmington Del.; E. J. ROCKWOOD, 10  
Coral Street, Worcester, Mass.; G. L. FANCHER, West Winsted, Conn.

## Secretary's Report.

I HAVE nothing of special importance to impart to the members this month, so my report will be necessarily short.

I trust the members are making themselves familiar with the laws as it is only through them that the full scope of the Association can be learned.

Up to date I have never published a delinquent list for the reason that the delinquents were very few and even those I desired to give every opportunity to pay their dues.

I now feel it my duty to report the following persons as being dropped from the rolls, they as yet never having paid the dues of the Association.

No. 10.—Daniel E. Soper, Newage, Mich.  
No. 21.—F. B. Anderson, Nashua, N. H.

These parties to be reinstated must make application to the Official Board.

There have been no applications this month which is rather a bad showing, but it is hoped that the next month will redeem the record.

Following is a list of

No. 21.—B. W. Kemler, Parker, Mo. Dak.

No. 32.—Harry L. Simon, 241 Pine St., Lancaster, Pa.

No. 33.—W. A. Babcock, Holliston, Mass.

ALVAH DAVISON, Secretary.

## Librarian's Report.

THE RECEIPTS for the library were small during February. From G. H. Richmond, copy of *Forum* for February, and from D. S. McArthur, clippings for Scrap-book. I received also from W. K. Moorehead, a copy of his work on Ft. Ancient, after my report for January was sent in. I find the book to be profusely illustrated and well written, and it will give the members who have never seen a mound, a good idea as to the size, and the method employed in opening mounds.

The library now contains the following books and pamphlets:

Report of Bureau Ethnology 1887-94.	J. W. Powell
Smithsonian Reports 1877-79, 82	
Ft. Ancient,	W. K. Moorehead
Expéditions Préhistoriques Archéologie of Western Europe,	Thos. Wilson
Handbook to the National Museum.	
American Antiquarian, November, 1888.	
July, 1889.	
Report of Worcester Society Antiquity, 1893.	
Forum, January and February, 1890.	
Scrap Book.	

The scrap-book is nearly completed, matter is needed to fill about five pages. I have placed the articles in the book, as they were received, from time to time, making no systematic effort to arrange them. The library was increased during March, by the gift of nine bound books from Mr. W. K. Moorehead of Washington, as follows:

Last Rambles among the Indians,	Cutlin
Book of Algonquin,	Merremavoth
Life of Smith and Vocabularies,	W. Gilmore Simons
The Indians,	John McLean, M. A.
History of the Shawnee Indians,	Henry Harvey
Pioneer Life,	D. G. Peters
Golden Days of '49	
Deed,	H. B. Stowe
Shakespeare's Complete Works	

These, together with Ft. Ancient, and three volumes of Smithsonian Reports, make thirteen volumes contributed by this gentleman, besides many clippings and a number of copies of the *Antiquarian*. I think it would be well for the Society to extend to Mr. Moorehead a vote of thanks, for the interest that he has shown.

I have also received clippings from D. S. McArthur, and a copy of the *Collegian* containing an article, "A Worker in Stone," from F. W. Young, Editor of the Wakefield, Mass. Record.

Now that the Constitution has been circulated, and the members know the terms on which books are delivered, I am pleased to have them avail themselves of the library.

C. A. PERKINS, Librarian.

## A Correction.

To the Editor of PLAIN TALK:

You quote the wrong name in my article on "frauds." It is not G. W. Robinette but J. M. Robinette. Please correct. If you refer to MS. you will see it is J. M. R.  
Allentown, Pa., Apr. 17, 1890. A. F. BERLIN.

## Gem Arrow Points.

[From Stanley Wood's Great Britain.]

NEARLY everyone is more or less familiar with the common flint arrow and spear heads turned up by the plow or bog from the mounds of the ancient red men or aborigines of America; but comparatively few are acquainted with the tiny arrow heads of certain localities of the west. Thousands of the farmer's boys have gathered the flint forms from the soil of the farms over which they roamed but the little semi-precious stone points are seen in the east only as purchases from some western collector. For delicacy of point and barb, perfection of workmanship and beauty of material, few of the flints compare favorably with these chaledony, agate, jasper and obsidian gems from the west. Archaeologists well versed in the study of this science profess to tell us the manner in which these stone instruments were made. Of all the various types of stone these delicately formed arrows have this lay a second grade, more grave doubts regarding the date about three quarters of the advanced theories of the great savior of the American ethnology than all of the coarser material that has come under my observation.

I have seen hundreds of Oregon gem arrow points so delicately constructed that they seemed to preclude the idea that they could have been struck the gentlest blow with any chipping tool of stone, antler or what not and have preserved the sharp and slender points and barbs that gave them uniqueness or variety. I am more and more impressed with the thought that the mode of making these small arrow heads is a lost art. None of the oldest Indians of the western coast can give any information upon the subject. The most noted localities for these arrow points are Oregon, Washington Territory, New Mexico and Nevada. A few points are occasionally found in Arizona, Colorado and Montana. A greater number have been found upon the east bank of the Willamette river, Oregon, from one-half mile above to one-half mile below the falls of the same name, upon an area of about five acres—one acre being at the south extreme and the other four acres at the north extreme of this one mile of river bank. From the vast quantity of flakings found upon the former area we are led to the conclusion that the Indians had "ancient arrow makers" stationed there. The favorite dwelling places of the red men were on the rivers near their mouths, or where natural obstructions made good fishing points. It is estimated by an old collector who has personally collected 35,000 of these gem arrow heads and purchased nearly as many more since 1878, that 20,000 have been gathered from the one-acre spot and over 100,000 from the four acres of ground above mentioned. At the latter place is found a stratum of dark soil two and a half feet in thickness, composed of charcoal, animal bones, fresh water clams, shells, etc. Above the dark stratum is a layer of wash sand two feet thick, indicating one or more higher floods than we have any record of. From these facts, and from the fact that there is nothing on the ground to indicate a burial place, I draw the conclusion that a very ancient village of these aborigines existed here and remained a long time. The tribes living near the locality in question are said to have been the Molalla, Clackamas, and Klamath Indians. What may seem stranger still, the fine material from which these arrows were made does not exist at or near the site of this village. Excepting petrified and agatized wood, the stones to make these arrow points were brought a considerable distance, and obsidian is not found nearer than 325 miles distant. Few larger points worthy the name of spear are found here. The majority of arrow heads found are of the little, delicate points, averaging about the size of our illustrations. The most prolific success of the arrow seekers have been in the spring when the freshets have washed the sand loose upon the overflowed banks of the Willamette and upon recedence left in sight many new prizes to gladden the eye of the relic hunter.—L. W. STILLWELL.



# LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

This department is under special editorial supervision. Contributions solicited. Address "REBECCA SUMMERS," in care of PLAIN TALK.

## In Leisure Hours.

A PRETTY present for a gentleman is a long neck-tie case of silk or plush, with gold lettering or some floral design.

Head-rests are prettily made of two oblong cushions of India silk tied together with bows of ribbon and stuffed with dried rose-leaves.

For washable fabrics the design is outlined in cable cord in white, which is secured to the cloth with a button-hole stitch in heavy rope-silk in color.

Handsome sofa cushions are made by crocheting in rope-silk over rings of different sizes. When finished they are sewed together and laid over satin or plush of the same or a contrasting color.

Simple and effective shades for a chandelier are easily made. Take lengths of India silk long enough to encircle the largest part of the globe, and better get a heading top and bottom; gather an inch side of Christmas narrow ribbon in the hem; then, in the United States, hang with which to attach them to the shades.

The novel cover is a pretty offering from a lady to a gentleman. It may be of painted celluloid, satin or plush, but perhaps the prettiest made are those of brocade; they may be bound with wide or narrow gold galleon. They are made a trifle larger than the ordinary paper novel, shaped like a cover and lined with satin, each side next the back being left open like the pocket of a blotter. In this the paper covers of the book are slipped.

PEN-WIPERS.—The fancy for novel pen-wipers seems to have developed into a craze. Nothing seems too grotesque to be pressed into service. A new pen-wiper is a little Tan O'Shanter cap. The puffed crown is a piece of bright-colored cashmere or silk; the band a strip of black velvet ribbon. The leaves are in layers under the band, covering what would be the opening for the head. Another pen-wiper is a little black "high hat," inverted upon a number of flannel leaves placed in layers. In the hat is folded a piece of red silk, hemstitched and intended to represent an old-fashioned silk handkerchief; the four points of the handkerchief stand upward. Another is a roll of colored cloth or flannel in a little shawl strap. The ends of the roll are cut into long, fringe-like strips. As a heading to the fringe, around each end of the roll is worked a row of brier-stitch in gray silk.

## Inexpensive Suits.

THE woman who spends the most money on her dresses does not always have either the most fashionable or the most becoming, for something more than money is required for a becoming suit. And that is? A thought as to where it is to be worn and whether it is suited to the age and style of the wearer. The French, the people who best understand the art of dress, never fail to consider these questions, and to them is due the fashion of wearing woolen, the really suitable material for all times during the day.

You have, perhaps, but one nice suit, and that a silk—it is not in good taste to wear silk in the morning, or to walk in it—so that, unless you have a carriage at your command, your silk dress is useless save for formal visits or the evening—you are obliged to wear last season's gown, which the silk one was supposed to supplant; but the cashmere or serge is not too much dress for any time and is always allowable, if it is becoming, for evening entertainments that do not demand full dress.

You are a brunette. You have not much money to spend, but you want a suit, and that means a dress, a wrap and a bonnet in harmony. First, think out your color; you choose gray, a clear shade. For this select a double-width material, because being so wide it cuts to better advantage and is cheaper in the end. You know that heliotrope is fashionable with gray and so, for a bit of decoration, you get enough for a collar and girdle. When your dress is finished the skirt is the received length, that is, it comes far enough over your

shoes in front to keep you from looking awkward, and it is a little shorter in the back, so that it will not collect dust. Over the plain foundation the cashmere is draped, long and slightly wrinkled in front while at the sides and back it is laid in plaits at the top, that are not, however, caught down but allowed to fall in their own artistic manner. They have been carefully pressed once, and this leaves just the semblance of their outline. The basque is rather short, and pointed at the back and front. From one shoulder a full strip of the material is drawn over in surplice fashion fastening at the side. The collar is a high one of heliotrope velvet, and the girdle is also of the velvet, but instead of fastening at the back or front it is brought around to the side and is then put under a velvet rosette. Your sleeves are fashionably full at the top, but do not look extreme. You have wisely made a very full skirt, and so you look at your material with a sad smile. Have not enough for a coat? Well, then, have a yoke cape: get a little more velvet, it is not an expensive quality, and use it for the collar and yoke; from it hang the two full capes that form a small wrap and which are really warm enough for Spring days. Tie them in front with long ribbons of gray gros-grain, that soft quality that does not muss with use. Your hat? As you wear your hair low, choose a toque of gray straw, drape the brim with heliotrope velvet and have a bunch of violets pressed together in a rosette fashion, put slightly to one side above the velvet. Your gloves are gray undressed kid, and you can look at them with pleasure, inasmuch as they will stand cleaning and appear better after it than any other shade. Now you are dressed in good taste, becomingly and at but slight expense.

A suit to be worn by a blonde? A suit that will have much wear and must withstand the dust? There is one fashionable material, one that was dear to our grandmothers, but which to-day is in vogue, that not only scorps but casts aside dust. And that is alpaca. Black will be most becoming and on the warmest or coolest day look best. You expect to wear it without an outer wrap, then you need a coat instead of an ordinary basque. Let the skirt be as simple as possible, it will then look most stylish and be easier to keep in order. Have it a kilt, the plaits not too fine, but caught at intervals with tapes underneath. The coat gives it an especially stylish air. Make that after the fashion known as Louis Quatorze—a medium length coat that fits perfectly in the back, has loose jacket fronts that flare away, and a vest all buttoned down before. Finish all the edges of the coat with a tiny cord covered with the alpaca, and make the waistcoat of it, overlaying it with black passementerie so smoothly sewn on that it makes it seem like a brocade. Do not make the mistake of getting jet; what you want is the braid passementerie. The high collar of the vest coming as it does above the rolling one of the jacket, may be decorated in the same way; the rather wide coat-sleeves should have their cuffs trimmed with it; and the pocket laps should be in harmony. At the back, a little distance below the waist line, set three large crochet buttons on each side, and similar buttons, only for decoration, should be on each side of the jacket fronts. Wear a black, fancy straw bonnet, with a monture of green leaves enfaming it, and loop the narrow black velvet ties under your chin. Your gloves may be black or tan, and your parasol black with a fancy wood handle. You can smile at yourself in the mirror, because you look stylish, but your dress is one that will stand a great deal of wear, endure even daily wear, and come out of it looking almost as good as new.

One of the betweenies; a woman with brown hair, blue eyes and rather fair complexion. Be wise, then, and choose neither a very dark or very light color. As you want a cloth dress, suppose you get one of the fine plaids in blue and white—the very fine shepherd's plaid. The material is a light-weight, smoothly-finished cloth, and if you can spare the money, make it up on a silk foundation. You do not need an expensive silk for this purpose, and your cloth dress will always seem nicer for having it. The skirt has a long, plain tablier that is apparently fastened to the side by rows of small, brown velvet buttons, six in a group, and then a small space, when six more come in, soldier fashion, to do their duty. Loops of fine, brown cord simulate button-holes.

The sides and back are quite plain, the full folds falling in an unbroken line. The basque is a postilion that fits, as



cloth always should, with great precision. It is short and pointed in front, arched over the hips, and has the usual position back, on which are set two rows of the tiny buttons.

The closing is done with these small buttons, and there is no decoration whatever unless the high, velvet collar could be counted one. The sleeves are coat shape, and, while fitting the arms closely, are not tight. A row of buttons on the outer side of each, a row reaching nearly to the elbow, are their trimmings. You look well in this because you are a good figure that elaborate bodice decorations would only hide, while this well-cut, well-fitting bodice serves to show it to the best advantage. Your hat must have the new rosette trimming. It should be a spoon-shaped turban of brown straw; two strips of velvet, one brown, the other cream, are drawn forward from the back and held under three rosettes made of velvet cut on the bias; one is of emerald green, another of brown and another of cream. Have your last season's parasol, with its pretty handle freshly covered with brown silk, and wear walking gloves of dark tan, those with the seams overlapping and which have four large buttons. As they run very large, you can get them a quarter of a size smaller than you generally wear, and even they will be an easy fit—a something so desirable in a glove.

For evening wear nothing can be daintier than a dress of nun's veiling in a faint blue, lilac, old rose, or dove gray (that is, when one does not care to wear white. Make your dress with a simple skirt and put all your ingenuity to work to devise a becoming bodice. One to be commended is to be worn with a plain full skirt; it is laid in fine plaits at the neck that are drawn into a V shape at the waist, adding to its small and long appearance. The collar is a tohy frill of fine lace, falling over the bodice so that the throat shows; a jabot of the same kind of lace is arranged down the front, concealing the closing. The sleeves are very high on the shoulders and very full. They are drawn in with shirrings just below the elbow, and have deep cuffs of white moire, finished with frills of lace that fall well over the hands and tend to make them look smaller. A folded sash of white moire is laid about the waist outlining the point shape; then it is arranged at the back in loops and ends, the last reaching quite to the skirt edge. Expensive? Not at all. Why these light stuffs do not need to be of as fine a quality as those intended for street wear, for in a house or evening dress, effect rather than richness of stuff is to be desired.

—RUTH ASHMORE, in *The Ladies' Home Journal*.

## HOW TO DO IT.

Original contributions solicited for this page. Send sketches, no matter how rough, with descriptions, when possible, and illustrations will be made.

### Who Goes a Fishing?

IF YOU run a fish hook in any part of the body, do not try to pull it out but cut off the line, file or break off the flattened end and pass the hook on through the flesh as you would a needle in sewing.

### To Make Indelible Ink.

TO ONE teaspoon of rain water, add one half teaspoonful of vinegar and a piece of lunar caustic, three inches long; shake well together; put on your cloth a little milk and soda, (to a table-spoon of milk, a piece of baking soda is large as a grain of corn.) iron smooth, and write immediately. —GUSTAVE E. ANDERSON.

### A Tissue Paper Balloon.

WE HAVE all, doubtless, watched the course of a soap bubble as it floated along in the air, now up by the ceiling, now dancing along the floor; admiring its brilliant hues, and its crystal clearness. But then, seemingly, in its glory it vanishes, leaving nothing but a drop of water to remind us of its former beauty. Let us turn away from these vapor balloons, in quest of something more substantial than soap-suds.

First we must have a motive power capable of lifting a balloon heavenward, and secondly a balloon made of some light material. In hot air we find our motive power, and in tissue paper the light material of which the balloon may be made. The two combined must be lighter than the atmosphere, that the whole may rise, or the balloon is sure to be a mortifying failure.

The builder will learn perhaps by experience, to avoid making balloons with narrow necks or openings. Again, he must avoid making a slim, narrow balloon, lest the flame from the fire-ball ignite the thin paper, reducing his balloon to ashes to be blown about by the breeze.

A stout, portly balloon, with a wide neck will ascend in a very satisfactory manner, journeying onward and upward until lost to view.

When building your balloon, decide upon the height, and make the gores one third longer. A balloon of thirteen strips, or gores, each six feet long, when inflated with hot air will be a little more than four feet high. For such a balloon, cut a pattern out of heavy brown paper, by which to cut the gores. Take a piece of paper six feet long and a little over a foot wide, and fold lengthwise. At the bottom, measure off five inches; three feet and six inches up, mark off six inches, which is the widest part, and from there the width decreases. At four feet, mark off five inches; at five feet mark off three and a half inches, and at six feet let it come to a point. Connect these marks by a curved line, and with a pair of shears cut along the line. Then unfold the paper and you have your pattern, from which cut fourteen gores of tissue paper.

Lay one of these gores upon the floor and fold it lengthwise; under this lay a second gore, allowing the under gore to protrude about three quarters of an inch beyond the upper one. Cover the protruding edge of the upper half of the under gore with paste and fold it up and over upon the second gore and with a towel press it down and hold it in place until it adheres.

Now fold the second gore lengthwise, and upon it lay a third gore, allowing the second to protrude the same as the first, and paste and fold it up upon the third. Continue in this way until all are pasted except the first and last edges. Paste these together neatly.

It is better to cover the top of the balloon, where the points meet, with a circular piece of paper. Any holes should be capped with pieces of paper.

Now you want a hoop of rattan or wire to fit in the mouth, which should be sixteen inches in diameter.

To secure the hoop, paste the edges of the paper around it. Across the hoop fasten two wires so that they will cross at right angles in the center. From the cross wires the fire-ball that heats the air is to be suspended.

Make a ball of the old fashioned lamp wick, about two inches in diameter, and through the center run a piece of wire by which the ball may be suspended from the cross wire.

Now your balloon is finished, but you must wait for a night when there is no wind.

When such a night comes, take down your balloon, procure some alcohol, and a basin and some matches. Pour out the alcohol into the basin and place the ball of lamp wick in the alcohol. Light a large kerosene lamp and place it under the mouth of the balloon, and let it remain there until the hot air has filled the balloon. Then take the fire-ball from the alcohol and suspend it from the cross-wire, and when all is ready, touch a match to it, let go, and your balloon should shoot heavenward.

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."—Frank H. Waggoner.

### Seeing the Wind Blow.

"DID YOU ever see the wind?"  
"See the wind!"

"Yes, that's what I said. Did you ever see the wind?" asked a yachtsman who was standing on a bluff of the Highlands watching the yachts sailing on the lower bay.

"No, I've never seen the wind," replied his friend.

"Well, I'll tell you how you may. Take a polished metallic surface of two feet or more, with a straight edge; a large hand-saw will answer the purpose. Select a windy day, whether hot or cold, clear or cloudy, only let it not rain or the air be murky—in other words let the air be dry. Hold this metallic surface at right angles to the wind—i.e., if the wind is north, hold your surface east and west—and incline it at an angle of forty-five degrees so that the wind striking, glances and flows over the edge. Now sight carefully over the edge at some small but clearly defined object, and you will see the air flow over as water flows over a dam."

—M. E.

# NATURAL HISTORY.

WILL H. PLANK, - - - EDITOR,  
KANSAS CITY, KAN.

Contributions to this department are solicited from all readers. Questions will be answered by competent authorities.

## A Few Notes on Ornithological Collecting.

Having had some experience in collecting birds, and having been troubled at first to know what tools, implements, etc., to get and how to use them, it occurred to me that some of my readers might not be as fortunate, and I therefore give them the benefit of my experience and study upon the subject.

1. *The Gun.*—For all around collecting a good 12 bore double-barrel, breech-loading shot-gun is by far the best.

In choosing a gun, pick out one that has the crook of the stock fitted to you, that is, one which enables you to catch the sight easily upon bringing it to the shoulder. The weight should be about 7 to 8 pounds; not over eight. A barrel measuring about 30 inches is preferable. A breech-loader is by all odds preferable to a muzzle-loader. I have used both and decidedly prefer the former.

a. *Paper Shells* are superior to brass ones, for they do not bulge, are not so heavy and can be thrown away after firing. An inflexible rule I would enforce upon this subject is *never use brass cartridges*; by observing this rule you will save many a wrench to your temper. The cost of loaded shells is about \$40 per thousand or about four cents a piece.

b. *Loading Shells* must be done carefully. Two wads should be placed between powder and shot, and the last wad (over the shot) should be glued in. Load three-fourths of your cartridges with "mustard seed," two-thirds of the rest with No. 7, and the balance with No. 4. Mark the number of the shot on the top wad, or better yet use the colored paper shells as follows: white for "mustard seed," red for No. 7; and blue for No. 4; should you have a few buck-shot (which by the way when hunting for specimens in the South are very handy) you can use a green shell. Upon starting out on a trip take a third more shells than you think you will need.

c. *Other Weapons* may be chosen, such as a single-barreled shot-gun, cane-gun, or pistol-gun, all of which have their advantages; but in the long run the simple double-barrel will be found by far the best.

d. *Ammunition.*—In reloading use the best powder combining strength and cleanliness. Use the "mustard seed" for the larger number of shells. Procure enough dust shot upon leaving the city to last through your whole trip. It can not be procured in country places. Use good felt wads. Get the very best primers (either "Winchester" or U. M. C.).

e. *Other Equipments.*—A gun case made of canvas is a necessary article, and does not cost much (\$1.25 to \$2.00). A box containing the following reloading tools is indispensable: Puncher and rammer, capper, block to set base of cartridge in while decapping and ramming, and a powder and shot measure. Your ammunition may be carried in a "belt," "vest" or loose in your pockets.

f. *For yourself*, you will need a stout hat, coat full of pockets, and a pair of pantaloons made from canvas or corduroy. A fishing basket is excellent to carry specimens in.

A few remarks upon the care of the gun may not be out of place here; *never let the muzzle of your gun sweep the horizon*; point it up in the air or down at your feet. *Always carry your gun at half-cock*; never let the muzzle of the gun point toward your own person for a single instant; *never point it at another person*; get your gun over fences before you follow yourself; never leave a loaded gun in your house. The gun may be cleaned by swabbing inside with a rag and the judicious use of a little porpoise oil; an old wad fastened to the end of the ramrod is very useful in starting dirt. Oil locks and iron work thoroughly.

*Instruments.*—These are few in number, consisting of scalpel, scissors, spring forceps, lung stuffers and a few needles and pins. For large birds a much heavier pair of scissors and a pair of bone snips will be desirable. A hone and whet stone will also be necessary. A rule divided in hundredths of an inch is necessary.

*Materials for Stuffing.*—For small birds cotton is the best, and large ones may be stuffed with good excelsior or tow. For a preservative use *Arsenic* and *Alum* equally mixed;

nothing else will answer. "Plaster of Paris" will be found to be very serviceable in cleaning and drying wet and bloody plumages. Keep your arsenic in a different colored box from your plaster or you may sometime poison your bird with plaster instead of arsenic. For wrapping, a pliable, strong paper will be found to be the best. A pocket lens will also be found handy.

When traveling, an iron bound trunk or chest, very strong in the hinges and lock. A good size is 30x18x18 inches. It should be fitted with a set of trays, of which the bottom one should be about four inches in depth. The rest may gradually grow shallower; and the last should be quite shallow. Your tools and materials may occupy the top tray or better still the lid. Fill your trays with cotton and tow before you start.

The following implements will also be found quite handy: several files, cutting pliers, needles and thread and a few different sizes of annealed wire cut in lengths of a foot or more. If eggs are to be collected the following tools will be necessary; two sizes of drills, small and large; two of blow-pipes; and a small pair of embryo scissors.

## RECAPITULATION.

I give below a check list of all tools and other articles necessary for a protracted collecting trip of about four months.

1 iron bound chest 30x18x18, fitted with trays, and containing the following articles:

1 double-barreled breech-loading shot-gun, 12 bore (if the collector is going to an unsettled country, a rifle and revolver will be necessary; 100 cartridges for each should be taken); 1 belt for cartridges; 12 lbs. shot. (6 lbs. Mustard-seed, 3 lbs. No. 7, 2 lbs. No. 4, 1 lb. buck); 500 paper shot shells; 200 primers; 6 lbs. best powder; 1 box containing loader, re-loader, capper, measure and rammer; 3000 felt gun wads; 15 lbs. dry arsenic and alum; 1 box containing two small scalpels, 1 pair scissors, 1 pair spring forceps, 1 pair long stuffers; 1 large skinning knife; 2 blow pipes and set of egg-drills; 1 thermometer; 1 hatchet; 1 field glass; 1 compass; 1 bull's-eye lantern; 3000 labels, three sizes; 1 pair bone snips; 1 pair cutting pliers; 1 three cornered file; one 4 inch saw (for turtles); 1 tape measure; 1 Mille rule; 1 oil stone; 2 papers of needles; 2 spools of thread; 12 lead pencils; a few note books; 1 copper tank in wooden box, for alcohols; 1 arsenic spoon for sifting upon skins; 1 saw; plenty of stiff paper for cylinders to dry birds in; a quantity of pliable paper to make cornucopias of to put birds in when first shot; a few papers of pins, a few sizes of annealed wire cut in 12 inch lengths,

## CLOTHES.

1 hunting coat; 1 pair pants; 2 pair hunting shoes; 1 double woolen blanket; 1 rubber blanket; 2 hats; a number of thin undershirts and stockings.—F. C. BAKER, in *Oologist's Exchange*.

## Wild Horses of the Sierras.

THERE IS said to be a large band of wild horses, led by a thoroughbred known to the stockmen as the "Outlaw Stud," ranging between Truckee, Nevada County, and Peavine, Neb. Years ago the stud, a fine racer, escaped to the mountains, and has since defied capture. By desperate riding stockmen manage to get into the band every year and drive out the colts. The horses range on the highest peaks, beyond where cattle or sheep often go. They only go to water once a day, and then in single file down the mountain trail as fast as they can run. They go back at their leisure, feeding by the way.

## The Study of Insects.

M. R. A. W. PEARSON, for many years city editor of the *Morning Bulletin*, Norwich, Ct., is not only a very able journalist but also an enthusiastic student of Nature. His favorite field is the study of insects, and he is regarded as one of the best entomologists in New England. Mr. Pearson, in addition to his regular work on the *Bulletin*, edits the Entomological department of the *Portland, Conn., Observer*,—a paper for all who love the out-door world. Those interested in the subject from a business point of view, as agriculturists; those educationally,—teachers, pupils, parents, etc.; and those from pleasure, collectors, etc., will all be pleased with this department.





THE SHEIK OF THE DESERT, OR A LION HUNT.—BY CARAN D'ACHE.

## PUZZLEDOM.

CONDUCTED BY "FISCO."

Address all communications pertaining to this Department to EDGAR D. MELVILLE, Puzzle Editor PLAIN TALK, 923 Upland Street, Chester, Pa.

### Answers to Puzzles that Appeared in the January Number.

No. 1. care  
arid  
rise  
eden

No. 2.—THE TELEPHONE.

No. 3.—DAN-DE-LION.

### New Puzzles.

#### 1. DECAPITATION.

First in color you will find me; beheld me then light you will see; again, and I am an assent to a question; beheld me again and I am a vowel. LEAL.

#### 2. INITIAL CHANGES.

1. Change the initial of a movement and have a dose. 2. Of to regard with reverence and have strict. 3. Of more willingly and have a male parent.

SARAH HRBEK.

#### 3. ANAGRAM.

I send in its rude lamps.

J. W. FALKNER.

### PRIZE.

A fine target gun, with darts and targets complete; for in-door or out-door use and suitable for either boys or girls.

The above named prize will be awarded on the following plan; If an even number of correct answers are received the prize will be sent to the one sending the first; if an odd number, to the one sending the middle correct answer, unless divisible by 5, when it will be given for the last correct answer.

J. W. Falkner won the prizes offered in the January number.

Complete lists were received from Albert Pennell, Miss J. Harris, Geo. B. Tiffany, J. W. Falkner, C. C. Harris, Mrs. T. N. McClelland and Miss Belle Babcock.

An incomplete list was received from Miss Sarah Hrbek.

### AMATEUR PRESS NOTES.

[Add: see everything to Frank C. Smith, Editor, 60 Orange Street, Waltham, Mass.]

THE HUB AMATEUR JOURNALISTS' CLUB.—For some time past the more enterprising amateurs of Boston and vicinity have been contemplating the possibility of establishing a press club, but not until Monday evening, March 10th, was the desired result brought about. Chiefly through the efforts of Mrs. Ella Maud Frye a meeting was called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rushton, Maplewood, Mass., on the evening just mentioned. Willard O. Wylie presided and the club was organized with the following officers: President, C. H. Wilson, of Boston; Vice President, C. H. Lewis, of Lynn; Secretary and Treasurer, Frank C. Smith, of Waltham; Official Editor, Mrs. Ella Maud Frye, of Maplewood.

The membership numbers about twenty and is growing. The initial number of *The Hub Official* appeared in April and will be issued bi-monthly.

POLITICAL.—Boston and Philadelphia are rivals for the national meeting place in '91. Both are getting in some good work. A. D. Grant, of the *Nugget*, is mentioned for the National Presidency and Dunlop for Official Editor. The M. A. P. A. tickets will soon be in the field. C. A. Sheffield, of the *Press*, Florence, Mass., is mentioned for the presidency. Lynn, Haverhill and Boston have been mentioned for the next meeting place. Mr. George E. Frye and James F. Morton, Jr., have been mentioned for the presidency of the N. E. A. P. A.

The April *Monthly Visitor* from Haverhill, Mass., "doubles up."

The little Haverhill *Times* is much improved in appearance with the April number.

The *Inside Track*, of Ripon, Wis., has Fred. F. Heath as a subject for an anti-obitography even if not the "most famous in the world."

The *Academy Monthly's* fantastic cover peeps out from under a pile of papers. It is a true school magazine of but little interest to outsiders.

*Fern Leaf*, of Philadelphia, has two excellent articles in the May issue, "Courage," by Robert G. Mackay, and "Fate," by Margaret Warburton.

Burton E. Stevenson contributes a well-written little article to the March *Dilettante*, Indianapolis, Ind. Without that elaborate plot that most of our short sketches fail by having, "A Terrible Retribution" is well handled and is quite interesting.

The *Philadelphian* from the Quaker city, as its name implies, is well made up and has the business appearance which we like to see, but is weak in contents. If it only made its reading matter more of the original it would be a model amateur magazine.

*Twinks* is a new paper from Wilmington, Del.—Newton's *High School Review* is up to its usual standard.—The *American Collector* is our smallest, we believe. But we like its attractive appearance, however.—The *Stamp Advertiser* from Hudson, Mass., has a good business showing.—The *Red Man* claims to be the only paper devoted to that hobby. We like its magazine form better than the present newspaper size, however.—The *Youth's Guide*, Lansing, Mich., the *Amateur Press*, Troy, Pa., and the *Curiosity Collector*, South Amboy, N. J., are lively papers, and the *Age*, of Indianapolis, Ind., is "published on its merits."—The *Item*, Clinton, Ia., is another small but active sheet, and the *Literary Signal*, Blue Earth City, Minn., *Boys' and Girls' News*, Huron, N. Y., *Gazette*, Waterville, Mass., *Crescent*, Westfield, Mass., *Nimrod*, Heenah, Wis., *Ideal*, Philadelphia, Pa., *High School Record*, Orange, Mass., *Rusher*, Bowling Green, Ky., *Clipper*, Bowling Green, Ky., *Amateur Review*, Mazepa, Minn., and the *Hub Official* have been received.

### CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

This Department is established in response to numerous requests from members. All members are invited to make use of it, remembering the following rules: First—Brevity. Second—Clearness of statement. Third—Decisive knowledge of what is wanted. Fourth—The desirability of confining themselves, as much as possible, to questions of interest to others as well as themselves. All questions will be given attention as early as possible, although in some cases more or less delay may be necessary.

L. W. P., Slaughter, Wash.—There are several good philatelic papers with exchange columns. Perhaps *Philately*, 419 East 15th St., N. Y. City, is as good as any for your purpose. M. Mendocino City, Calif.—If in good condition, the retail price of the copper cents of 1817 and 1857 is 10 cents each; or, 5 cents each if in fair condition. The half-cent of 1828 sells for 15 cents in good condition.

B. B. B.—Opinions differ as to the best stamp catalogue. The new one just issued by J. W. Scott Co., 163 Fulton St., N. Y., is a good one; price, 25 cents.

L. C. P., Lunenburg, N. S.—I see answer to "B. B. B." 2. The address of the *American Philatelist* is Box 1153, Philadelphia, Pa. 3. We cannot say which is the "best University in the States." Yale is good, and so is Harvard, and Brown, and Ann Arbor, and a score of others. Send for catalogues and decide for yourself. 4. Again, opinions differ. "The Angelus" is certainly a "famous painting," even if not the "most famous in the world." It is a picture painted on canvas only 21 1/4 x 25 1/2 inches, and was bought during the past year from representatives of the French government by the American Art Association. The last price paid was \$110,600. The artist, J. F. Millet, finished it in 1850 and died in 1875. The subject seems more simple than other famous pictures. Two peasants, a man and woman, clothed in their working dress, stand in a field at the setting of the sun, with heads bowed reverently; the man with bared head and the woman with clasped hands. Their implements of toil are beside them, as they have been gathering their fall crops. The sound of the Angelus bell is coming to their ears. In the Latin church that is the name given to the bell that tolls morning, noon and evening to indicate the time for prayer. The prayer commences in Latin with Angelus Domini, meaning Angel of the Lord. The bell of the village church in which the Angelus is ringing is seen far away in the distance against the evening sky. The couple are in the foreground sending a prayer to their Heavenly Father, as they are too far away and otherwise unfit to gather at the temple with the other worshippers.

### EXCHANGES.

Exchange notices are inserted free of charge, but it must be understood that we can take no responsibility concerning exchanges effected by means of this department, neither will the reliability of exchanges be guaranteed. To avoid any misunderstanding in the matter, it would be advisable for those contemplating exchange to write for particulars to the person to whom the notice is to be addressed. Notices must be plainly and concisely written, following the general arrangement given below, and on one side of the paper only. Send as often as possible, of not more than one notice for single issue. Notices of more than 40 words not inserted. Free to subscribers only. Notices are not repeated, i. e., a notice can have but one insertion.

Philatelic papers for V. nickel minus cents, or for U. S. stamps. P. P. O'KEEFE, Stearnsville, Ohio. 37  
Will send a spearhead, 6 arrowheads and 3 relic papers for 100 cents. Also 1865. Make cash offer on 4,000 assorted U. S. used postage stamps. Address G. U. DICK, Millersburg, Ohio. 38  
Two new *Golden Days* and *Philatelic papers* for 100 U. S. cents, large cents, 3¢ cents, or for V. nickels without cents. Wanted also cash or good exchange paper fractional currency and old U. S. coins. CHAS. H. ERICK, Pawnee City, Nebraska. 39

A Remington breech-loading, single-barrel shot gun, 1 year's use in the best order, with 161 patent game carrier, 1 box wads, 3 doz. new shells (brass), 1 box caps and 1 doz. of rem. shells which cost \$4.25. What offer? A. H. FICK, Paducah, Ky. 40

A no opinion instrument, by which you can see through the haze of the present and into the future, for cash or best offers. Address W. T. DAWSON, Barrington, Ill.  
Printed booklets Cooper, Verne, Alger, etc., for "Abolition and the Slave Trade," or other books on Indians and their relics. E. L. KEMPTON, 141 Lafayette St., Schenectady, N. Y. 41







